

Nickel accounts for 65 per cent of Manitoba's metal production (or 50 per cent of mineral production) and more than 50,000 tonnes of nickel are extracted annually. Copper and zinc total another 32 per cent of metal production (or 25 per cent of mineral production).

The International Nickel Company's facility in Thompson was the western world's first fully integrated mining, concentrating, smelting and refining complex for nickel. Much of the province's mineral production is processed either at Thomson or Flin Flon, but quantities are shipped by rail to British Columbia and Quebec.

Not all of the petroleum found on the prairies is in Alberta or Saskatchewan. Annual crude oil production in Manitoba is approximately four million barrels. This oil is located in the southwestern parts of the province around the town of Virden. The petroleum products industry operates one oil refinery in Winnipeg. A large proportion of Manitoba's motor vehicles and farm machines are fuelled by the gasoline and oil refined at this plant, although at least half of the province's gasoline and refined oil comes from Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Considerable mining research and development is done by the mining companies themselves and by the provincial and federal governments and

the University of Manitoba. This research provides the scientific and technical data needed to discover further mineral deposits and helps evaluate the known and potential resources of the province.

Other important items include those resources used for building and construction. Portland cement is made from limestone and there are a number of granite, tyndall stone, gypsum, shale, and stoneware clay quarries throughout the province.

The world's largest known reserves of cesium ore are found in the pegmatite of the Bernic Lake region.

Power

Manitoba is rich in energy resources. Some 95 per cent of the province's electricity is generated by water power. While most of the hydroelectric power is produced in the northern part of the province, a considerable amount is generated on the Winnipeg River near the city of Winnipeg, Manitoba's greatest energy user.

Total generating capacity is about 3.7 million kilowatts and most (3.5 million kilowatts) is owned by Manitoba Hydro, a provincial Crown corporation.

The largest of the province's 13 hydroelectric stations are some 400 to 750 km north of Winnipeg on the Saskatchewan River at Grand Rapids